and Montana 4 each, Maine, Delaware and Kentucky 3 each, Japan, Nebraska, Utah, Oregon and Colorado 2 each, Rhode Island, Georgia, North Dakota, Arkansas and Wyoming 1 each. The interest of the meeting was enhanced by the presence of the following foreigners, who were made honorary associates for the meeting: Lieutenant Georgia Abbetti, of the Italian Military Commission; Lieutenant G. P. Thompson, of the Royal Flying Corps of Great Britain; Captain DeGuiche, of the French Military Commission, and Dr. Shigetaro Kawasaki, chief geologist of Korea.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the association in Boston, Massachusetts, the meeting to begin on Friday, December 27, 1918. This decision was adopted with the amendment that the committee on policy be given the power to cancel the meeting, or to change the place should this seem to be desirable. It was recommended that St. Louis be chosen for the place of meeting following Boston.

The following officers were elected:

President, John M. Coulter, the University of Chicago;

Vice-presidents as follows:

Section A, Mathematics and Astronomy, George D. Birkhoff, Harvard University;

Section B, Physics, Gordon T. Hull, Dartmouth College;

Section C, Chemistry, Alexander Smith, Columbia University;

Section D, Mechanical Science and Engineering, Ira N. Hollis, Worcester Polytechnic Institute;

Section E, Geology and Geography, David White, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.;

Section F, Zoology, Wm. Patten, Dartmouth College;

Section G, Botany, A. F. Blakeslee, Cold Spring Harbor;

Section H, Anthropology and Psychology (no election);

Section I, Social and Economic Science, John Barrett, Washington;

Section K, Physiology and Experimental Medicine, Frederic S. Lee, Columbia University;

Section L, Education, S. A. Courtis, Detroit, Mich.;

Section M, Agriculture, H. P. Armsby, Pennsylvania State College.

WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE activities of the Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, during the fiscal year 1916–17 have been concentrated on investigations connected with military and industrial preparedness, as shown by the Annual Report of the director of the survey. These activities have included the preparation of special reports for the War and Navy Departments and the Council of National Defense, the making of military surveys, the printing of military maps and hydrographic charts, and the contribution of engineer officers to the Reserve Corps.

The survey's investigations of minerals that have assumed special interest because of the war have been both expanded and made more intensive. Special reports giving results already at hand, the product of years of field and office investigation, have been published for the information of the general public or prepared for the immediate use of some official commission, committee or bureau. Geologic field work has been concentrated on deposits of minerals that are essential to the successful prosecution of the war, especially those of which the domestic supply falls short of present demands. Every available oil geologist is at work in petroleum regions where geologic exploration may lead to increased production. Other geologists are engaged in a search for commercial deposits of the "war minerals"—manganese, pyrite, plati-

num, chromite, tungsten, antimony, potash and nitrate.

The war not only diverted practically all the activities of the topographic branch of the survey to work designed to meet the urgent needs of the war department for military surveys, but led to the commissioning of the majority of the topographers as reserve officers in the Corps of Engineers, United States Army.

A large contribution to the military service is made by the map-printing establishment of the survey. This plant has been available for both confidential and urgent work, and during the year has printed 96 editions of maps for the war department and 906 editions of charts for the navy department. Other lithographic work, some of it very complicated, was in progress at the end of the year.

WORK OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

THE annual report of the executive committee of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics states that previous to the entrance of the United States into the war the committee had undertaken a census of the production facilities of manufacturers of aircraft and aeronautic engines, which information was made available for use of the Aircraft Production Board at the beginning of its work in April.

In October, 1916, the committee took under consideration the question of the selection of a suitable site for the committee's proposed experimental laboratory. At the suggestion of the War Department this committee inspected several proposed sites and made recommendation to the War Department for the purchase of one of them, which recommendation was accepted by the War Department and the site was purchased. On this field the War Department has allotted to the committee a space suited to the erection of the committee's proposed research laboratories. The committee has designed the first building of the group contemplated and it is now in the course of construction.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Theodore Caldwell Janeway, professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University; of Albert Homer Purdue, state geologist of Tennessee; of Joseph Price Remington, dean of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy; of Hugo Schweitzer, the industrial chemist; of Louis Pope Gratacap, curator of mineralogy in the American Museum of Natural History; of A. M. W. Downing, formerly superintendent of the British *Nautical Almanac*, and of Fritz Daniel Frech, professor of geology and paleontology in the University of Breslau.

M. PAINLEVÉ has been elected president of the Paris Academy of Sciences, succeeding M. d'Arsonval. —In recognition of his contributions to science, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt has been appointed honorary fellow of the American Museum of Natural History, of which his father, Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., was one of the founders and most energetic supporters.

The committee has made progress during the year in the study and investigation of the following problems: Stability as determined by mathematical investigation, air-speed meters, wing sections, aeronautical engine design, radiator design, air-propeller design and efficiency, forms of airplane, radio telegraphy, noncorrosive materials, flat and cambered surfaces, terminal connections, characteristics of constructive materials, and standardization of specifications for materials.